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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Barzani Charity Foundation / BCF, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[10 September 2018]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

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The divers society of Iraq must be protected, Iraq future is depend on future of Ethnic-religious Minorities

For thousand years Iraq have been a country of everyone, the people are minority today once they were majority in the country, the so called ethnic and religious communities in Iraq, which they are the concert foundation of the Iraqi society and the have been the important part of the Iraqi population and cultural heritage of the country now are facing an unprecedented challenge that threatens their continued existence in the country. Although the war against ISIS won at least militarily, nevertheless Iraq still in crisis period and the threat from extremist element not over yet.

Although the government of Iraq and the authority in Kurdistan region are doing their best to assure the minority group that it's their best interest to stay in Iraq rather than migrating to other countries, the action by the federal and regional authority is encouraging but without international community and human right group the capacity of the Government will be limited and it would be hard for Iraq to maintains its rich ethnic and religious diversity, there is no doubt that the ongoing conflict and political challenges will contribute further to insecurity and venerability of minority rights and will enhance further to depriving it of that diversity in their immediate future. Since 2003 many minority 'Christian and Eizidy in particular have sought asylum in other countries and the ISIS barbaric attack of Iraqi civilians have resulted in mass migration of minorities leaving behind thousands of years of heritage, culture of co-existence and prosperity once they enjoyed as result of mass migration the minority population dramatically decreased, therefore without immediate assistance by international community, many more will be willing to leave Iraq forever.

The barbaric attack and terror campaign committed by the ISIS, have been a biggest factor of decreasing minorities in Iraq and in particular the ISIS have impacted the Eizidy community which many of them being killed and many of female held captive, including young children held in sexual slavery. As today there are no more territory held by ISIS but yet many Eizidy women and children remain captive and their faith is not known. As the human right council in 2016 noted that "Allegations of genocide against the Yazidi and possibly other ethnic and religious communities must be fully investigated. Although since 2016 many session and meeting have been held to discuss the persecution of minority in Iraq, but the reality in the ground still remained as it is therefore the international community must also act decisively in cooperation and partnership with the central government of Iraq and Kurdistan region of Iraq KRG, international community in accordance with its commitments under international law is obliged to protect civilians and Barzani charity foundation/BCF is recommending to the human right council to encourage and assist Iraq to pursue reconciliation through the restorative justice among Iraqi society, which BCF believes that the restorative justice inline with other actions such as reconstruction, compensation and economic development and local power sharing, will stabilize the society of Iraq and will give a reason for minorities to stay and rebuild the shattered Iraq, which all together can make Iraq once a prosper and safer place for everyone.